

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We want to thank the Subcommittee for your continued support and recognition of health centers as a longstanding bipartisan solution to the primary care access problems facing this country. During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Appropriations process, we respectfully request that the Subcommittee continue to recognize Community Health Centers as providers of high quality, cost-effective primary care, and that you work to ensure the continuation of the innovative, high-value health center model of care within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies legislation for FY2019.

Since the first health centers opened their doors more than fifty years ago, health centers have proven to be a worthwhile investment, providing high-quality and affordable primary care, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision and a variety of complementary services to America's most vulnerable patients and medically-underserved communities. Today, thanks to longstanding bipartisan support in Congress, well over 1,400 health center organizations serve more than 10,400 urban and rural communities nationwide. Health centers are the health care home for over 27 million patients, including 8 million children and over 330,000 veterans. Health centers employ nearly 208,000 people, and generate billions of dollars in economic impact for communities and overall cost-savings for the health care system.

The demand for health center services, especially behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment, has grown in recent years. Combined with the investments made on a bipartisan basis through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, annual appropriations for the Health Centers Program are critical to the success of health centers nationwide as they meet growing demand for affordable health care and respond to the changing needs of their communities - whether helping fight outbreaks of flu and Zika, dispensing care in areas impacted by natural disasters, or by providing treatment for opioid addiction.

As Congress works to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment services, reduce health care expenditures, and promote patient-centered solutions to our health care challenges, we urge the Subcommittee to continue supporting health centers, which have a proven

track record of success. Thank you for your continued support of the vital role health centers play in preserving and expanding access to care in the communities they serve. We ask that as you consider the Subcommittee's budget priorities, that you support this proven and cost-effective model of care at the levels outlined in the Bipartisan Budget Act.

Sincerely,



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Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
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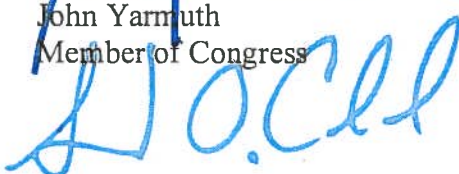
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



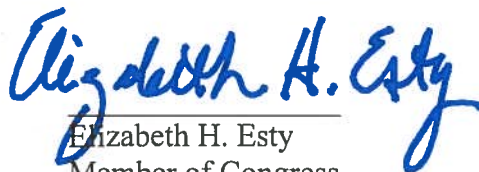
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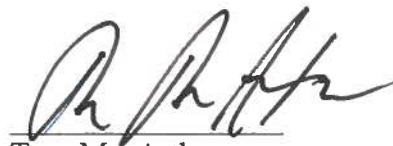
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

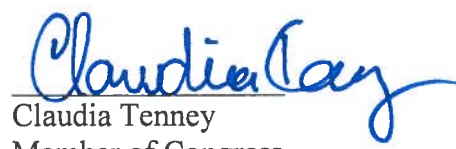

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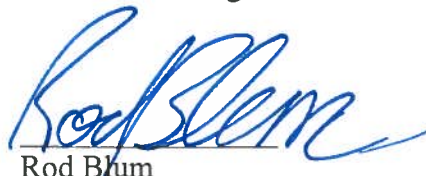

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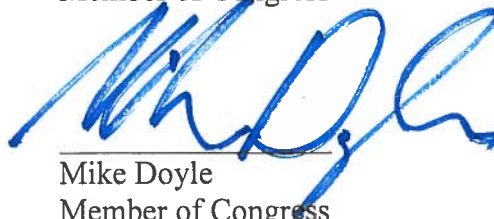
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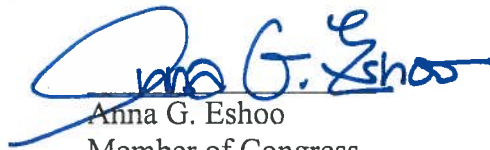
Mike Thompson
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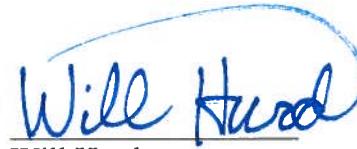
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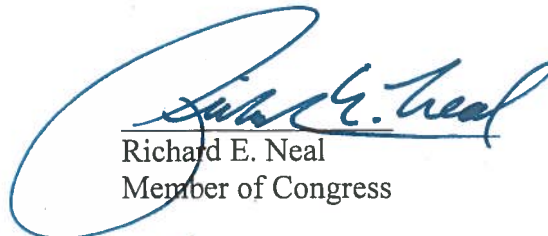
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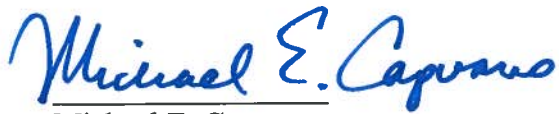
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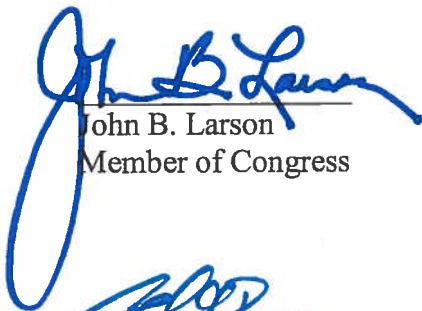
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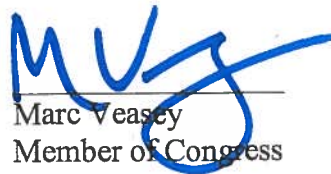
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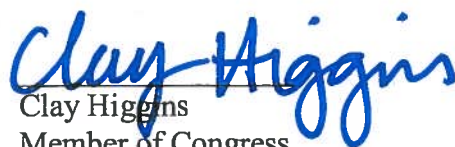
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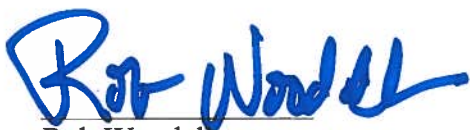
Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



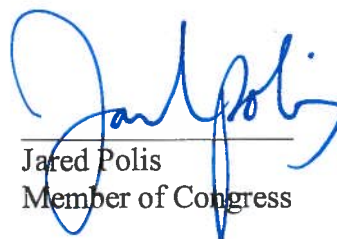
Norma J. Torres
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Dave Trott
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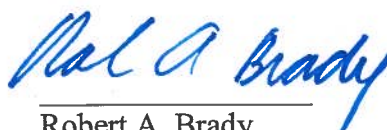
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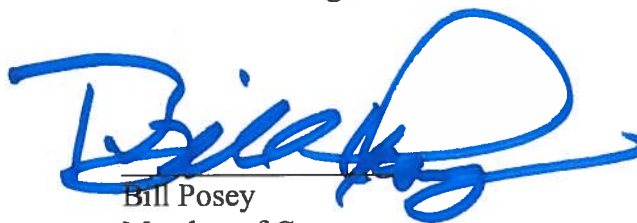
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Joe Wilson
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James Comer
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Don Bacon

Don Bacon
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Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack
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Jennifer González-Colón

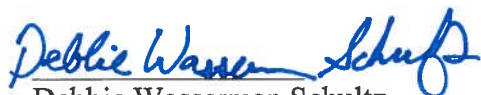
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Chris Collins
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Ken Buck
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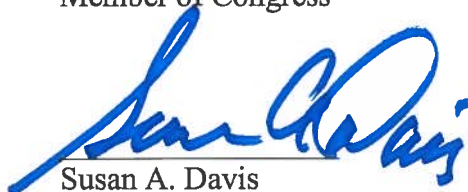
Sam Graves
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
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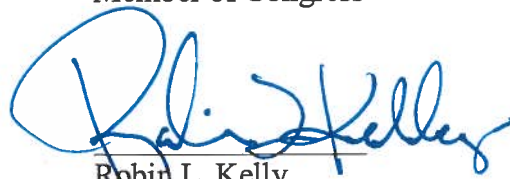
Joaquin Castro
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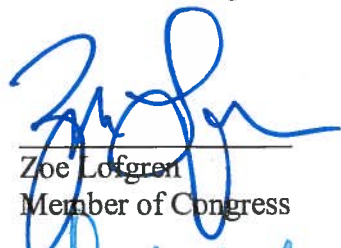
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



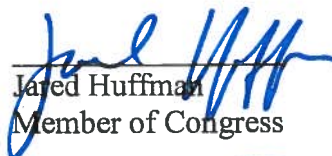
French Hill
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Congressman Ed Perlmutter
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Bill Shuster
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Rep. David E. Price
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Diana DeGette
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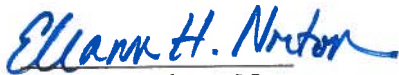
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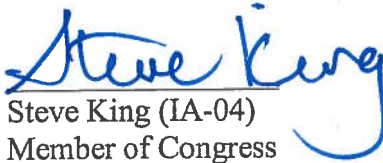
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



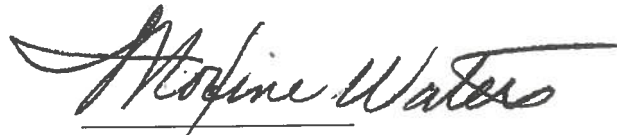
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
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Steve King (IA-04)
Member of Congress



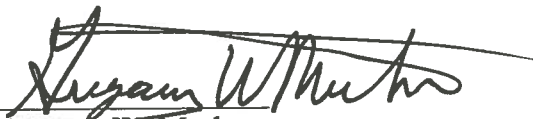
Maxine Waters
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Pete Sessions
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Gregory W. Meeks
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Danny K. Davis
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Elijah E. Cummings
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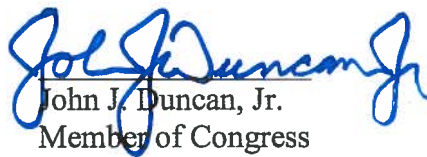
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Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



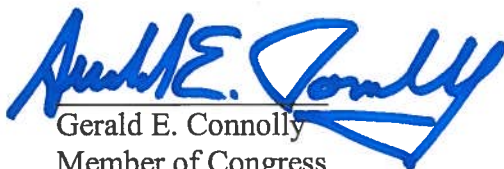
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Maxine Waters
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John Curtis
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Keith Ellison
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Steve Knight
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J. Luis Correa
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Jason Smith
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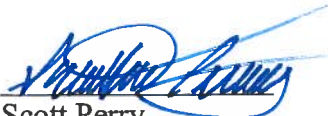
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



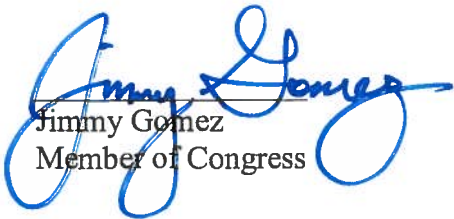
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Sander M. Levin
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Stephanie Murphy
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Nanette Diaz Barragan
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Albio Sires
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Marcia L. Fudge
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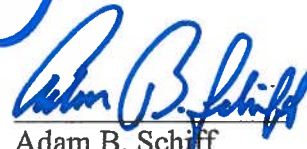

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

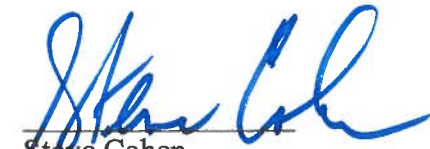

Al Green
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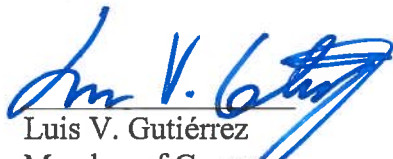

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Michael R. Turner
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Adam B. Schiff
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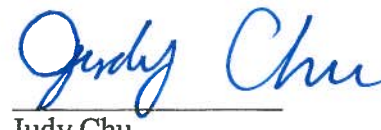

Steve Cohen
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Luis V. Gutiérrez
Member of Congress


Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

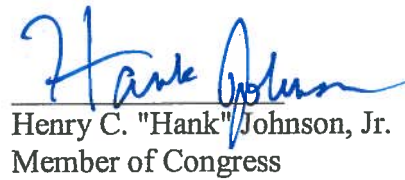

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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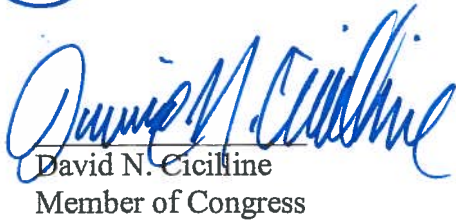

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

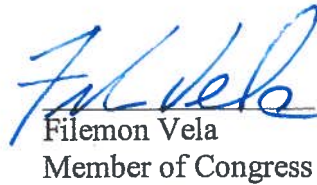

Frank A. LoBiondo
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Kurt Schrader
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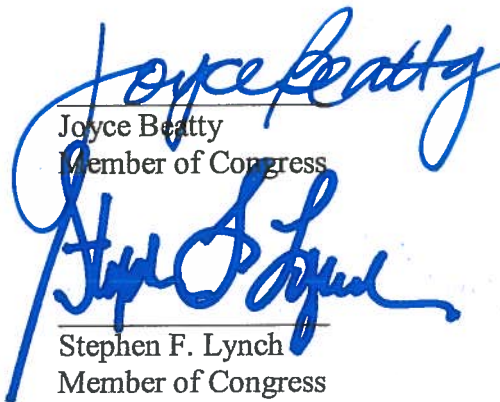

Rep. David B. McKinley, P.E.
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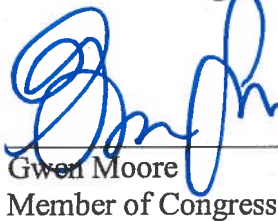

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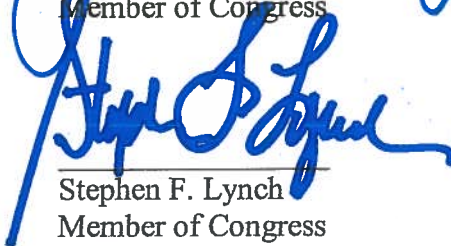

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Filemon Vela
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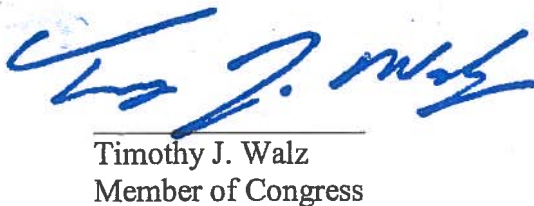

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

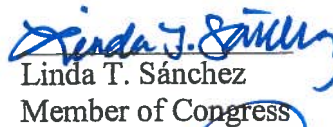

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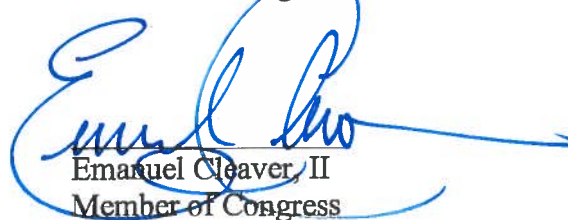

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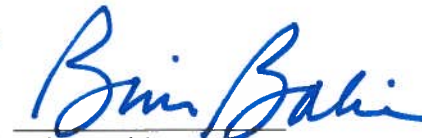

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Roger Marshall
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Ruben Kihuen
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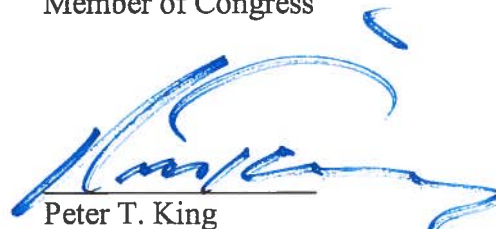

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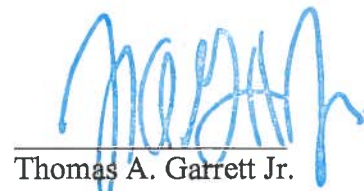

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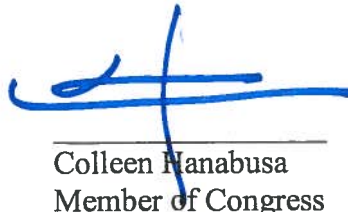

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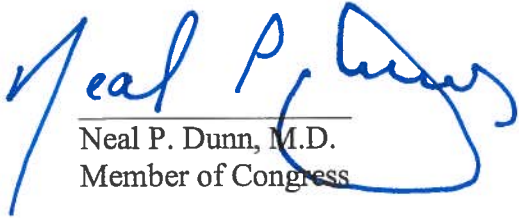

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



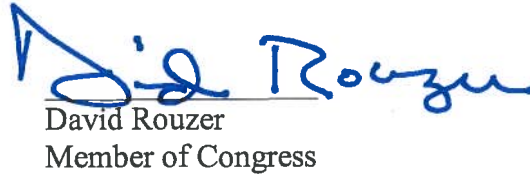
Cedric L. Richmond
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Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress



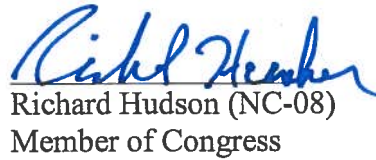
Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



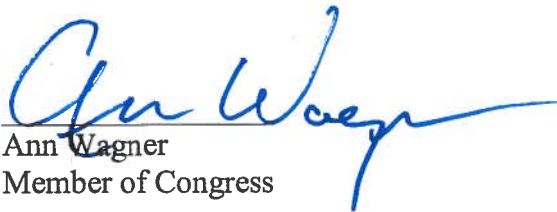
David Rouzer
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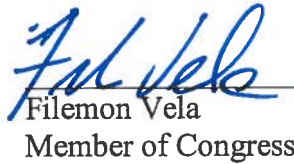
Rick W. Allen
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Richard Hudson (NC-08)
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Ann Wagner
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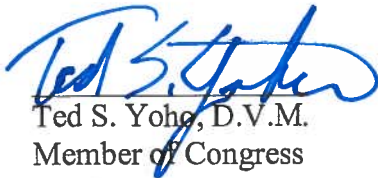
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



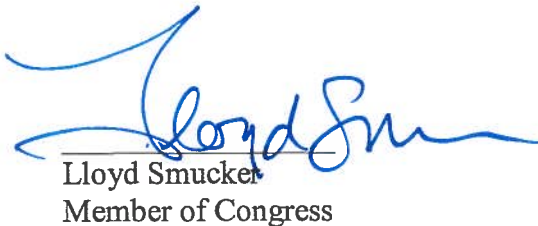
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



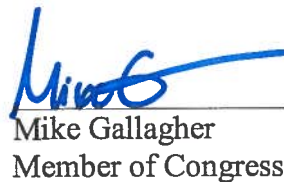
Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna, M.C.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress




Jackie Speier
Member of Congress




Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress


Rob Bishop
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Steve Russell
Member of Congress


Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress


Josh Gottheimer
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Michelle Lujan Grisham
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Mia B. Love
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Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress


David Scott
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Ted W. Lieu
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James E. Clyburn
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Juan Vargas
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Grace F. Napolitano
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John Katko
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John K. Delaney
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Mike Kelly
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Niki Tsongas
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Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress


James A. Himes
Member of Congress


Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress


A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

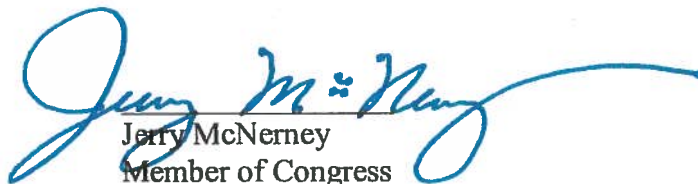

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
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Daniel Webster
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